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## Letter dated 17 July 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship, signed by the State of Eritrea and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on 9 July 2018, has effectively ended 20 years of political impasse between the two countries. The ministerial committee appointed by the two leaders will lead the implementation of the agreed five pillars, including the decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and the joint engagement "to ensure regional peace, development and cooperation". This is a very promising development with the potential to bring positive change to the peace and security outlook for the region and beyond — a fact recognized by the Security Council in its latest statement on the issue.

During my recent visit to Addis Ababa, I had the opportunity to hear the reflections of the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed, regarding these developments and received a letter requesting my good offices "to facilitate a resolution on the complete lifting of the sanctions imposed on Eritrea through Security Council resolution 1907 (2009) with immediate effect". I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter from the Prime Minister (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council for their consideration.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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**Annex**

## Request to lift United Nations sanctions imposed against Eritrea

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that Ethiopia and Eritrea have just signed a Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship. After a 20-year military standoff, we held a peace summit in Asmara and agreed to normalize ties between the two nations. Undoubtedly, this historic breakthrough will have unprecedented and far-reaching results in significantly improving the stability of the Horn of Africa and beyond.

Through the Joint Declaration, we have agreed to end a state of war that lasted for two decades and to usher a new era of peace and friendship between the two countries. We have further agreed to forge intimate political, economic, social, cultural and security cooperation that serves and advances the interests of our people. We also made the commitment to jointly work towards ensuring regional peace, development and cooperation. Indeed, this Joint Declaration represents a historic milestone and will help to deepen efforts to bring about lasting peace between the people of the two countries.

In the light of this historic milestone and the commitment made by the Government of Eritrea to work towards maintaining regional peace and cooperation, we would like to kindly request your good office to facilitate a resolution on the complete lifting of the sanctions imposed on Eritrea through Security Council resolution 1907 (2009) with immediate effect.

We are fully convinced that such a measure would promote peacebuilding in the region in general and the two nations in particular. The Ethiopian Government appreciates the support and kind considerations of the United Nations Security Council in this endeavour.

(*Signed*) Abiy **Ahmed**
FDRE Prime Minister